



Alison Raitch/The Patriot Ledger

The steeple of Holy Family Church in Duxbury is removed after Friday's storm dislodged it from its base.

Steeple saved by the bell

By John Chaffee
The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — The Catholic church's steeple may have been saved by its Baptist bell.

According to Holy Family Church architect Antonio deCastro, when fierce winds Friday threatened to knock the steeple off its pedestal, the weight of the bell in its base kept it from toppling.

"If the bell hadn't been there, the steeple probably would have been blown

off," said deCastro, owner of the Boston architectural firm deCastro-Nelson.

DeCastro watched anxiously yesterday as the steeple was taken down and placed on the ground beside the \$3 million, eight-year-old church on Route 3A.

Monsignor William Glynn, Holy Family's pastor, said the bell, which deCastro said weighed 2,800 pounds, came from the Old Cornerstone Baptist Church in Cambridge, which burned down a few years before Holy Family was built.

As he watched the 65-foot steeple sway in Friday's wind, "I thought it was going to come down," deCastro said.

And as the wind continued to howl throughout the night, Monsignor Glynn said he didn't get much sleep in the rectory across the street.

"If you want a sleepless night, that's a good prescription," Monsignor Glynn said.

Please see BELL — Page 12

Weight of bell may have saved church's steeple

■ BELL
continued from Page 11

Because the loose steeple created a safety hazard, the church was closed over the weekend and Monsignor Glynn granted parishioners special dispensation from attending Mass.

The church is slated to reopen today without its steeple.

DeCastro estimated it would take "a few weeks" to determine what caused the steeple to begin swaying and to craft new supports. "I expect it will be back up by

March," he said.

Although deCastro said he couldn't estimate the cost of the damage, Monsignor Glynn said he expected it to be covered by the church's insurance.

Holy Family, which had a membership of 50 families when it was created as a parish 50 years ago, today has 2,000 families and is the largest church in Duxbury.

The original church building, at the corner of St. George and Cedar Streets, is being converted by the South Shore Conservatory into a regional center for the visual and performing arts.